JAMES GORDON BENNETT, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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New York, Friday, April 25, 1862.

## THE SITUATION.

The weather near Yorktown is again quite plea-Bent and favorable for the operations of our troops The siege works are going on vigorously, and the men are in splendid condition, full of hope and confident of victory. Skirmishes with the rebel pickets continue to be frequent, giving our mea some active work to perform, although the results are not more important than those always incident to the progress of a siege.

Further intelligence concerning the late affair of portion of General Burnside's army, near Elizabeth City, confirms our previous reports that the rebel count of a disaster to our arms were untrue. Colonel Summers and Lieutenant Carnes arrived at Baltimore in the boat from Fortress Monroe yeserday, having reached there about an hour before the boat left, in the steamer Cossack, from Newbern. They report that a fight occurred last Tuesday near the canal locks of Elizabeth ity, North Carolina, between Colonel lawkins' regiment and a force of rebels. The ebels were repulsed with considerable loss. Our oss is estimated at fifty killed and wounded. Colonel Hawkins was wounded in the right breast ad his Adjutant killed. It is also reported that eneral Burnside has received proposals from the Governor of North Carolina for the surrender of he State, though with what amount of truth we re now unable to say.

We publish to-day some highly interesting news from the Southern papers; among other things the atement from the Atlanta (Ga.) Confederacy, hat Northern Alabama and Western Georgia are completely at the mercy of General Mitchel, hose present position is declared to be such, at Sunter's Landing, that he can at once proceed to Rome, take that city, burn down the foundries, and papture all the arms, take possession of the enines on the railroad, and not only out off rainroemonts and means of retreat from the rebel Deneral Kirby Smith, who was alleged to be harching towards Huntsville, but leave, at e same time, the rebel forces at Knoxfille, Greenville and Cumberland Gap, to ether with all Western Virginia, completely exposed. The Richmond Examiner of the 22d, speaking of affairs at Yorktown, says that our troops had cut a conal between the York and Warwick rivers, which gives us a water front cross that whole stretch of country, which must ontribute materially to the strength of our posiion. It states further that on Saturday night last our men were engaged in throwing up intrenchments, and that, at day and on Sunday, they were empleted, and guns mounted within a thousand wards of the rebel position.

According to statements which reach us by the British schooner Evelina, from Nassau, New Providence, arrived at this port yesterday, it apbears that the robel steamer Nashville, which now alls under the recently assumed name of the Chomas L. Wragg, had returned to Nassau in a dis-Died condition, one of her paddle boxes being badly injured. She had made an ineffectual atempt to run the blockade into Charleston, ind the damage was supposed to have een received by a shot from one of our plockading squadron, probably the Gemsbok. The Nashville had on board a full cargo of animulition and guns, brought by the British vessel Gladiator to Nassau.

The robel steamer Elia Warley (formerly the sabel) had also arrived at Nassau from Havana ith a cargo of salipetre and potash, and would Attempt to run the blockade. The rebel steamer Decil had run the Charleston blookade and arrived ht Nassau. There were also other small rebel yeais at Nassau, all having successfully run the olockade.

## CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday, a communication from the War Department, covering copies of contracts pade by that department for 1861, was presented. large number of petitions, asking a reduction the proposed tax on beer and mait liquors. rere presented and referred. The bill providing or the recognition of Hayti and Jaberia, and es- do bodily harm, and was sent back for sentence.

tablishing diplomatic intercourse with those countries, was taken up, and Mr. Davis, of Kentucky, of fered a substitute, authorizing the President to ap point a Consul at Liberia and a Consul General at Hayti, to negotiate treaties. The substitute was rejected, and the bill passed by a vote of 32 to 7. The consideration of the Confiscation bill was then resumed, and Mr. Collamer, republican, made a speech against it. Mr. Sherman's amendment to the original bill, limiting confiscation to perso who held certain offices under the rebel govern ment was agreed to-yeas 27, nays 11. The further consideration of the subject was then post poned, and the Senate went into executive

In the House of Representatives, a resolution calling for the correspondence between the French and United States governments relative to the war was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Bills authorizing treaties with the Utah and New Mexico Indians, extinguishing their titles to lands were referred to the Committee of the Whole A bill to settle the accounts of New York for advances made during the war Great Britain and for other purposes, was referred to the Committee on Claims. Confiscation bills were then taker up, and after some debate the House, by a vote of 90 to 31, referred the subject to a special commit tee. A resolution to print 240,000 copies of the agricultural report of the Patent office-25,000 in German-was adopted. In Committee of the Whole, Messrs, Rollins, of Maine, and Allen, of Ohio, made speeches on the subject of our national troubles, and Mr. Edwards spoke in favor of the bill giving bounties to widows and heirs of volunteers. Mr. Vallandigham, of Ohio, quoted from a speech of Senator Wade, in which the latter charged the former with disloyalty to the Union and emphatically pronounced the Senator "a liar, a scoundrel and a coward." and expressed his readiness to meet him anywhere. Mr. Blake took up the quarrel for Senator Wade, and Mr. Hutchins fered a resolution declaring Mr. Vallandigham' language a violation of the rules of the House and a breach of decorum, and that he is deserving of and is hereby censured by the House. Pending the question on the resolution the House adjourned

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

By the arrival of the Spanish war steamer Isa bel la Catolica, we are in possession of import aut news from Mexico and South America. It will be seen that the French are moving on the city of Mexico, and that the Spaniards and English are retiring in disgust. Several French Zouaves had been lassoed and hanged by the Mexican guerillas. The country is in a most melancholy and unsettled condition. Some more Spanish troops had arrived, and the health of the expeditionary army was generally very good.

From St. Domingo we learn that there is prospect of a misunderstanding between the Span ish and Haytien governments, concerning the old question of the boundary line. Spain is determined to have the old limits established; but the Hay tiens are inclined to resist what they regard as an unjust and illegal claim. The Spanish forces are concentrating at Agua, and it is expected that they will attack the Haytiens unless they do as they are bid. The Spaniards say that if urged to make war they will compel Geffrard to give up the line claimed and to pay all expenses. The Madrid correspondent of the Indicendance Belde, writing on the 30th ult., states that a royal decree, signed by the Queen of Spain, has created the famous Santana, who sold St. Bomingo to the Spanish government, the "Marquis de las Carreras," this being the name of the place where the Haytiens and Bominicans met in combat some years ago.

The news from Venezuela, published in the Harana papers of the 15th inst., goes to show that el forces were being driven to the wall on every side. From all quarters the news was fuvorable to the government. The army of the rebel chief, Falcon, had been attacked at Coro, and utterly defeated, by the young General Camero. The schooner Anita had arrived safely at Laguay ra, with eight hundred stand of arms for government. The forces of Carapano and Matu rin attacked Acosta on the Rio Grande, and after bloody combat the latter was forced to fly. The rebels of the East had been seriously affected by this blow. Gen. Guerara had also met the ene my and defeated him at San Antonio. There had been several skirmishes, all of them highly favorable to the government of General Paez.

The prize schooner Dixie, which arrived at Philadelphia on Wednesday, was formerly the hundred and ten tons burthen, and at the breaking out of the rebellion was fitted out as a privateer armed with three guns, and in that capacity captured the Mary Alice, with a valuable cargo which was recaptured by the United States ship Wabash, and the prise crew sent to Fort La favette.

By the arrival of the echooner Evelina at this port yesterday, from Nassau, N. P., we learn hat the Cunard mail steamer Karnak, from Ha vana for New York, 'ran aground in the harbor of Nassau, on the afternoon of the 14th inst. and in a few hours after bilged. Her passengers and mails were taken off, and part of her cargo of sugar and cotton was saved in a damaged state. Twelve of her passengers arrived in the Eveline and the remainder, together with the mails, saile.

for New York in the echooner J. J. Pinlayson.

The Bridgetown (Berbados) Times of the 28th ultimo has the following paragraph, copied from a Dominican journal, in regard to the United States ship Shepherd Knapp:-"The United States ship-ofwar Shepherd Knapp, Commander Eytinge, ar rived at Prince Ruperts on Thursday last and anchored in the bay. After twenty-four hours stay however, her commander was informed by M. Police Magistrate Johnstone, that by a recent proclamation of her Majesty he could remain no onger in the bay, but must depart. He stated that he had come in to get water and to paint and refit, and was not aware of the proclamation, and requested to be allowed time to write to his Excelency the Lieutenant Governor for permission to remain until he could effect these objects. The answer returned was that such permission could not be granted, and that he must leave unless de tained by stress of weather. She left at about ten o'clock P. M. on Sunday, and stood away to the northwest, evidently steering for St. Thomas.' The Shepherd Knapp arrived at this port last

week, and is now at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. The United States steamer Cossack arrived at this port last evening from Newbern, via Fortress Monroe, bringing a large number of passengers, among them 149 of the soldiers wounded at the late bat tle of Nowhern. The commissioners for attending to the sick and wounded also arrived in the same

The Board of Aldermen did not organize los evening, a quorum not being present.

The Board of Councilmen did not meet last evening, a quorum not being present when the roll was called. President Pinckpey declared the

Board adjourned till Monday.

In the Court of General Sessions yesterday Charles H. Fleming was tried and convicted of bigumy in marrying Jane A. Butt, on the Stat of comber, 1861, while his first wife was living. He was remanded for sentence. John M. Hall was placed on trial charged with perpetrating a felo nious assault upon Dr. Francis Petigeau, in Frank lin street, on the 15th of March, by cutting him with a knife. The jury convicted him of assault and battery, and the Recorder will pass sentence on Saturday. Leonard Flicker, indicted for stabbing Mathew Joyce with a knife, pleaded guilty to an assault with a dangerous weapon with intent to

Counsel for Robert J. Hall, charged with false prefugee and a member of the ciercal profession moved for his discharge, Hall having be before the court on a writ of habeas corpus. His counsel maintained that the alleged representations, if made, did not constitute a legal offence. The Recorder did not coincide with the counsel but discharged the writ and held the prisoner for further examination.

The usual semi-monthly meeting of the Commis oners of Public Charities and Correction was held yesterday afternoon, Simeon Draper, Esq., President, in the chair. From the weekly state ment submitted to the Board it appears that the number remaining in the various institutions on the 12th inst. was 7,425; admitted since, 2,119; died, 39; discharged, 1,634; sent to Blackwell's Island, 445; sent to State Prison, 2; remaining April 19, 7,424; decrease, 1. The Committee of the Whole reported that from the 11th to the 24th of the present month, inclusive, 663 persons had been transferred from the city prisons to Black-well's Island as vagrants and disorderly persons, of which 173 were males and 490 females. receipts from various sources, from the 11th to the 24th inst., were \$6,301 65.

The stock market was stendy yesterday; the feature was an advance in government sixes of 1/2 a 1/2 per cent. Railway shares showed little or no change. Money was very easy at provious quotations. The rate of int illowed by the Sub-Treasurer on deposits is 5 per cent to anks and 4 to the public. Exchange dull; gold, 101 %.

The cotton market was firm yesterday, though some ess animated than on the provious day. The sales en braced 700 bales, on the basis of 20 %c. a 29 %c., chiefly at the latter figure for middling uplands. Some promi neat holders were not offering their cottons, while son others refused to sell under 30c., which, however, was outside figure. The flour market was again firme and higher, while sales were some less active and prices irregular. Corn was caster, with sale of Western mixed at 58c. a 59c. in store and delivered and at 58c. a 58%c. for yellow Delaware and Jersey Pork was in larger request, with sales of new mess at \$12.25 a \$12.50, and of new prime at \$10 a \$10.25, and 1 000 bbis, new moss were sold, deliverable in June, at 9 100 hbds, and 121 boxes were made at prices given in another column. Molasses was in good request, with sales of 250 hhds. Porto Rico at p. t., and 50 do. do. at 37c. Coffee was quiet; there was some inquiry for the article in bond for export to the Continent. Freight engagements were moderate and without change of im-

The New Strategy of the Rebels in Virginia and the Southwest-A Few Hints for Mr. Secretary Stanton.

The numerous defeats of the rebels, from Missouri to the Atlantic seaboard, in January and February last, culminating in the surren der of their army at Fort Donelson, not only broke down their entire line of Northern defences, but compelled them to adopt an entirely new plan of defensive warfare.

Jeff. Davis, in his February message to the rebel Congress, substantially confessed that in undertaking to defend their Northern frontier line against the inroads of the United States forces, from the Potomac to the Mississippi, and thence to the Missouri, the "Confederate States" had attempted too much. Our next advices from Richmond informed us that the rebel leaders were discussing a new plan of operations; and next we were apprised that a new plan, and one promising the best results, had been adopted. - The rebel exedus had discovered that a chain of defensive works, how ever formidable as a whole, was completely broken down with the loss of two or three of the connecting links, and that it was, therefore a waste of money, time, labor, artillery and munitions of war to repeat that extensive line of defences which they had tried so hopefully but which had so utterly and disastrously

And so, with their compulsory evacuation of Nashville, the rebel chiefs lost no time in preparing for the evacuation of Manassas, so that their army in the East might not be surrounded or cut off from its communications with their army in the West. Next we get hold of a copy of an appeal from the War Office at Richt "to the people of the Confederate States," calling upon them and upon their churches, corporations, &c., &c., for all the bells they can spare, in order that they may be worked up into light artillery, suitable for an army in motion from noint. At cartain be defended, such as the available bluffs and islands of the Mississippl, and the commercial cities of the Southern seaboard, and the approaches to Richmond, the heavy fortification and naval guns from the great magazine of the Norfolk Navy Yard are still to be employed to the fullest extent; but all the intermediate stationary defences of the rebellion are to be abandoned. They are to be, and are already superseded by two great moveable rebel armies, one in the East and one in the West, and each of these armies is to be prepared at a moment's warning and in overwhelming numbers to pounce upon any exposed detachment of our advancing forces, and so to cut up our armice in detail.

This is a Nanoleonic idea the identical plan of action under which the first Napoleon cut to pieces in Italy two or three successive Austrian armies of vastly superior force, and the strategy whereby, in 1814, from his interior position, he achieved such wonders in his final struggles for Paris against the overwhelming forces of the advancing semicircle of the Allies, by his rapid marches against their detacted columns from day to day. General Sidney Johnston and Beauregard only followed these examples of Napoleon in this late attack against the army of General Grant at Pittsburg Landing. Their objects were to surprise him, defeat him, and destroy his army, before General Buell's could arrive to relieve him; and but for those two gunboats in the Tennessoe river, at the right spot in the very crisis of danger, General Grant's army, in all probability, would have been destroyed; and the defeat of Paell might have followed; and thus we might have lost all the States and all the great moral advastages previously gained by our glorious victories in

the West.

In the East as in the West the robels have concentrated their strength upon an interior centre of operations, and upon Yorktown, a upon Corinth, our forces are advancing in converging lines; and so in the East our advancing forces are menaced with the same danger from which they so narrowly escaped in the West. General Haileck, in his very instructive work entitled "Halleck's Elements of Military Art and Science," says, in regard "to converging lines of operation," "that care should be taken that the point of meeting be such that it may not be taken as a strategic position by the enemy, and our forces be destroyed in detail before they can effect a junction." Then he recites a number of remarkable instances in which great armies have thus in detail been destroyed, including the examples to which we have already alluded.

Now, if we are not mistaken, the army of General McDowell, the army of General Banks, and the army of Gen all remont, widely sepa- grand country, with one mighty destiny.

rated from each ther, are moving by converging lines to a point of meeting with General Me Chellan, which is actually occupied and for-tified as a strategic position by the enemy. We are sure that in this matter we are giving no information which can be useful to the enemy; for he is doubtless much better informed of the movements of McDowell, Banks and Fremont than we can possibly be. But the question thus recurs to us, is the city of Washington positively safe, in view of the late strategical dash of the rebels upon Pittsburg Landing !

The York peninsula is heavily fortified General McClellan's advance in it is arrested by an elaborate system of earthworks, which ndicate not a pitched battle, but a regular siege to carry them. They may be sufficiently trong, with eight or ten thousand men, to dispute the advance of McClellan's army for seve. ral days, especially as, in neglecting to get rid of the Merrimac, Mr. Secretary Wolles has delivered up the James river to the enemy. Suppose, then, that, leaving ten or fifteen thouand men to work the batteries of the York peninsula against General McChellan, the bulk of the rebel Army of the East, say eighty thousand strong, under General Jo. Johnston, is moved out of the peninsula, and is dashed upon the army of McDowell, and that that army is routed, what will there be to prevent Johnston from moving at once, by forced marches, upon Washington? and how is the army of General McClellan to intercept him? It is possible that at this moment the main body of the robel army from Manassas may be much hearer to McDowell than to McClellan.

There may be not the slightest ground for any such apprehensions. We are willing to believe that the plans of the War Department for the occupation of Richmond involve no possible chance of danger to Washington; but in any event, from the hints which we have thrown out, Mr. Secretary Stanton will be enabled to appreciate the public solicitude concerning the safety of the several converging armies into which our late grand Army of the Potomac has been divided.

Our National Defences. Among the results of the present war is the awakening of the country to the necessity of national defences, which have been too long neglected. New discoveries in the art of war have rendered the old weapons and old defences obsolete, and events that have occurred since the breaking out of the rebellion have pointed out the danger of leaving our coast and Northern frontier so badly protected. Mr-Seward did not call the attention of the North. ern States and of Congress to the matter a moment too soon. The admirable report of the Military Committee, drawn up by Mr. Blair, which we published yesterday, is the fruit of this warning. We trust it will not fall stillborn to the ground, but that it will be taken up in a liberal and comprehensive spirit, and acted upon with promptitude and energy.

It contains many suggestions of great practical value; for instance, one, that a military education should be opened to the sons of such parents as are willing to pay for it, and that the army should be open to them equally as to the cadets of West Point. Passing over several other points, we come to the most important.

By the treaty of peace with England, after

the war of 1812-15, it was agreed that neither of the two nations should maintain a navy apon the lakes which divide Canada from the United States. England has neutralized the treaty as far as she is concerned by constructing two short military canals, which connect the upper with the lower lakes, and the lower with the ocean, out of the reach of our guns, At any moment she may send up a fleet which, in the event of war, could destroy every Ame rican town from Ogdensburg to Chicago, and enable her to invade the Northern States. Near the head of the St. Lawrence, at the foot of Lake Ontario, the British, to complete their supremacy on the lakes, have built an immense naval depot for the construction and repair of essels, and a very strong fortress to protect the depot and the outlet of the lake. As the right bank of the Upper St. Lawrence is in the United States, we have, of course, a right to erect fortifications there to command the river. Both sides of the St. Lawrence below belong to England. In order to have unimpeded military communication, a canal has been constructed from the lower part of Lake Ontario to the St. Lawrence, at a point

where the eminent domain on either bank of the river belongs exclusively to her Britannic Majesty. Now, to place the United States on a footing of equality, it will be necessary for our government to construct fortifications and naval depots, and two or three military canalsone from the Mississippi, by Illinois river, into Lake Michigan, and the other from Lake Erie into Lake Ontario around Niagara Fallswhile the Eric and Hudson Canal could be so enlarged as to allow a vessel of 1,500 or even 2,000 tons to enter Lake Eric from the ocean, which could be accomplished in a shorter time from the city of New York than from the mouth of the St Lawrence, to say nothing of the danger and delay arising from rapids, rocks and ice. As our ships could remain later in the fall and till the British were icebound, and as they could enter the lakes from the Mississippi in the spring a month sooner than the British could by way of the St. Lawrence, the advantage would be all on our side. By the construction of the two canals and the enlargement of the Erie, a fleet blockaded in New York might be removed to New Orleans by internal water communication, the Hudson being connected with the Mississippi. Nor is this all. Such is the wonderful manner in which nature has favored this country that, in time of war with a great maritime Power, an interior coast channel from New Orleans to Boston can be completed at a very small expense, as follows:-Beginning in the Mississippi river, above New Orleans and opening up the bed of the Iberville river (closed by General Jackson in 1812-15), an inner communication may be continued along the coast between the islands and the main land, via Mobile and Pensacola (crossing Florida with a ship canal), Savannah, Charleston, Beaufort, Norfolk, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New Brunswick and New York, through Long Island Sound, Narragansett and Buzzard's bay by a short canal to Massachusetts Bay. New London can be connected with Beaufort by three short and inexpensive canals of an aggregate length of only seventy-eight and a half miles. How important in peace or war is this internal communication, and how beautifully

Le Secretary W'elles Going Out!-A Golden Opportunity Air the Grandest Results. According to the telegraph, Mr. Secretary Wellos, the venerable head of the Navy Department, is going out and a new man is to take his place. It is stated, too, that Mr. Welles however, of little or no consequence whether the gentleman goes to Spain, Paragnay or Ja-

s to be shipped off to Spain. It is a matter, pan, so that we get him out of the Navy Depart ment. His successor, if picked up in the streets at a venture, cannot possibly be worse and may be a thousand times better, qualified to administer the duties of the department a this crisis than is Mr. Welles.

But President Lincoln, exercising his own good judgment, and in accordance with the stern and costly lessons of this war and the imperative demands of the present day in the natter of an efficient navy, can effect an immediate and wonderful revolution in our naval service by the appointment of the right kind of man to manage it. We expect, too, that Mr. Lincoln will appoint the right sort of man. We are strengthened in this impression very much from the report that General Banks, o Massachusetts, and Governor Sprague, of Rhode Island, are foremost among the name mentioned as those from which the new head of the Navy Department will be chosen Either General Banks or Governor Sprague will be satisfactory to the country; for they both belong to the active, earnest, leading progressive men of the present day, and not to the old political fessils of a generation which is buried, nor to the exploded military ideas and means and appliances of war of 1860.

What is the record of Mr. Welles as our Secretary of the Navy? It is that of a man still adhering to an old order of thought after it has been superseded by a revolution in the art of war as marked as that resulting from the introduction of gunpowder. Mr. Welles has made some considerable additions to our naval establishment; but among them are from sixty to seventy sailing wooden vessels purchased, which, with only a few exceptions, to the best of our knowledge, have not been, and are not likely to be, of any earthly service to the government. We are informed, too, that the twenty wooden steam gunboats, which Mr. Welle was induced to hurry up for the uses of our seaboard naval expeditions in this war, are but little if anything faster under a full head of steam than a common sailing vessel under a good wind. Mr. Welles, we believe, has also provided for the construction of several ironclad gunboats, to be finished six or nine months hence, from which it is evident that he supposes this war is to "drag its slow length along." through six, eight or ten years of comfortable contracts and magnificent old fashioned naval expeditions.

We want a Secretary of the Navy who will give us a record different from this, from beginning to end; we want no more purchases of old sailing vessels as ships-of-war; we want no more wooden gunboats propelled by steam at the rate of seven or eight miles an hour; we want no more magnificent naval expeditions to uninhabited sand hills and unprofitable sea islands, while such places as Norfolk, Wilmington, Charleston, Savannah, Mobile and New Orleans continue in the hands of the enemy. Our great naval expedition of last autumn might just as easily have shelled out the rebel defences of Norfolk as those of Port Royal; and Norfolk, with its arsenal of two thousand five hundred pieces of artillery, and with that unfinished monster, the Merrimac, would have been a prize that fifty times over would have paid all

We have no doubt that Mr. Secretary Welles is responsible for this great blunder of moving off this aforesaid expedition from the waters of Norfolk, when Norfolk, of all places, was the very place to be first taken. Had it been taken last October, the James river route to Richmond would now be open to us, and we should not now find the banks of the Mississippi bristling with rebel batteries, numbering at each defensive point from fifty to two or three hundred

avy guns. Mr. Welles was afraid of Norfolk, as he was afraid of the new naval experiment of the Monitor when first proposed to him by Captain Eriesson. The Captain waited upon the Secretary from day to day for a hearing till his patience was exhausted; and then, as a last resort, going in person to the President, with his plans and proposals, he was heard and authorized to build his ship. We are indebted, then, to the lucky thought of Captain Ericsson, of appealing from Secretary Welles to President Lincoln, for the lucky presence of the Monitor in Hampton Roads, when nothing but the presence of such a vessel could have saved us from a public disgrace and an invincible sea monster which, in another day, might have changed the fortunes of this war in favor of the

rebellion. We want iron-ciad rams and gunboats, swift and strong; and a half a dozen such craft, carrying each only one heavy gun of the most approved American invention, will be worth more to us than a dozen lumbering and vulnerable Warriors. We want a man in the Navy Department who will keep us shead of Engand in these iron naval defences, and who will defeat by anticipating the iron-clad vessels which our Southern rebels are building at various places. Let us hope that President Lincoln will give us such a man as the successor to old Mr. Welles.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE FOR EUROPE. -- Since ve have become a nation we have given Europe the best reapers, the tightest locks, the fastest race horses, the cheapest clocks, the most pugnacious pugilists, the swiftest vachts, the most accurate telegraph, the fastest occan steamers of the world. We have indeed showered our genius upon the other nations of the earth. Now we have produced a small ron steamer, which, in a five hours' fight in Hampton Roads, utterly destroys all the old navies of Europe, and gives to the other Powers of the world a model for the reconstruction of their fleets.

THE IRON AGE. -In 1847 and 1848 our Call fornia discoveries threw us into the golden er This grew out of the Mexican war. Now two are entering upon the age of iron, growing out of the present rebellion. Our sacrifices to rour honor and integrity develop the wonderful recources of this great country, to the ristonishment and bewilderment of the rest of the

OUR LIVE OAK PLANTATIONS .- Twore was some excitement several months sings because all the live oak plantations were in the hands of the robels. What if they were? Of what use is it designed by Providence to Dak the North are they now? Instead of these we want plenty with the South and the West with the East by of iron mines and rolling mills. Live oak has an unbroken chain, making, the woole one become obsolete.

## IMPORTANT FROM WASHINGTON

Ratification of the Seward-Lyons Treaty for Suppressing the African Slave Trade.

The Bill Recognizing Hayti and Liberia Passed by the Senate.

Interesting Debates in Congress on the Confiscation Question.

The Object of the French Minister's

Visit to Richmond.

Difficulty Between Mr. Vallandigham and Senator Wade.

Mr. Wade Stiemathed as a Line, a Scoundrel and a Coward. de.

WARRINGTON, April 24, 1868 RATIFICATION OF THE SEWARD-LYONS TREATY FOR THE SUPPRESSION OF THE AFRICAN SLAVE TRADE. The Senate to-day, by a unanimous vote, ratified the Seward-Lyons treaty recently negotiated here for the suppression of the African slave trade. This is deemed a most important treaty, which will probably sweep the

REPURN OF THE PRENCH MINISTER PROM RICHMO The French Minister, M. Henri Mercier, return day in the frigute Gassandi from Richmond. Soon after his arrival he visited the State Department, and ong and doubtless interesting interview with Secretary Seward. M. Mercier states that he never heard until b arrival here of Dr. Lemoine, who is said, by the Rich mond papers, to have represented thirty thousand

last vestige of the piratical traffic from the face of

M. Mercier's visit to Richmond was not of political importance, but, as stated in the Hanan some time ago, was purely of a business character, in reference to the safety of a large amount of property belonging to the French government, which was in danger burned or destroyed by the vandals of the robel confe deracy when they shall be compelled to eva-

THE CORRESPONDENCE WITH PRANCE BELATIVE TO Mr. Vallandigham's resolution calling upon the Pres

dent for such correspondence between this government and France as may have been received within the last two months, was based upon the knowledge of the fact, that the French government, supposing that it had been assured that the rebellion should be crushed out within a given time, which is already past, has made some ver significant inquiries of our government upon that subject THE REPUBLICAN CAUGUS.

The object of the caucus last night was to arrange the details of a Confiscation bill that would comm full vote of the republican party in the House. It was informally determined that the bill to be presented should affix the penalty of confiscation only to the have been actually bearing arms against the United States, excluding all who may be able to prove that they were involuntarily in arms. The only objection urged against the proposed bill is its incompatibility with the express provisions of the constitution. This bill will unquestion ably be passed, but the Supreme Court will probably con fine its operation to the life estate of rebels convicted

LOVEJOY'S HARANGUE ON THE CONFISCATION QUES-

Hon. Owen Lovejoy's speech upon confiscation to day, although toned down as much as possible under the advice of his friends, proclaimed boldly the doctrine of the radicals, that either slavery or the Union must be de stroyed in this war. He said that either slavery or the republic must perish. It is certain that the confiscation bill will be modified so as to reach only the property of the leaders in the rebellion. The majority in the Howill go no farther than this.

THE EMANCIPATION COMMISSION COMPLETED. The appointment of Horatio King, ex-Postmaster Gen ral, as one of the Commissioners under the act for the abolishment of slavery in the District of Columbia, was confirmed by the Senate to-day. The Board will organ ize at once.

The assault upon the President, in connection with the appointment of Mr. King, however gratifying to the radicals who are waging war against the admit is severely condemned by all who appreciate the patrictism exhibited by the few who were called to the rese of the country during the last days of the Buchas dynasty. The four gentlemen mentioned in the corres-Mr. Buchanan, were precisely those whose efforts were management of public affairs. It was their conduct upon that occasion that commended them to the people and to President Lincoln. The nomina Mr. King, however, was not prompted by the Secretary of War. He was selected by the President himself, as man of known integrity and enjoying the confiden the people of the District, and therefore eminently proper the people of the District, and therefore eminently proper these formulationers. These facts induced the as one of these Commissioners. These facts in prompt confirmation of the appointment by the Senate.

THE DIFFICULTY BRIWSEN MR. VALLANDIGHAM AND SENATOR WADN.

A speck of war appeared in Congress to-day. Mr. Vallandigham made use of language in the House in reference to Senator Wade which has caused much inquier during the evening respecting the Senator's fighting qualities. Mr. Wade has quite a reputation as a fighting man. It is possible that in the absence of the Sou fire eaters, who were wont to resort to the duello, North ere men may show that they are quite equal in such

afr. Hutchins' resolution consuring Mr. Vallandigham for elleged violation of the rules and decorum Herse by making use of denunciatory language against Senater Wade, after quoting from the latter's recent speech in the Senate, will come up to-morrow for final action. The participants in the colloquy, Measrs. Vallandige are, and Blake (one the assailant, the other the defender of Mr. Wade), exhibited intense earneste The scene for a while was exceedingly spirited, and was abruptly terminated by an adjournment.

SECRETARY WELLES' DEFENCE. Secretary Welles is preparing a statement for publicasome severe strictures upon the other departments of the

THE TAX BILL. The report that the Senate Finance Committee had decided to increase the tax on malt liquors to two deliars a barrel is erroneous. Such a proposition was arrested, and the committee manifested a disposition to diminish the tax to fifty cents a barrel. The brewing interest the country was represented before the committee by Mr. Squires. It was shown that the aggregate produ tion of malt liquors in this country is six millions of barrols, instead of three and a quarter millions, as stated in the last consus, and that a tax of one dollar a barrel would impose upon this individual interest one-twentieth of the whole amount of tax proposed to be raised. This representation, together with the fact that about one-fifth of the mail liquous browed are rendered unavailable by fermentation, while the tax is imposed on the whole, will probably induce the commit too to reduce the tax to fifty cents per barrel. SUTTLEMENT OF NEW YORK WAR CLAIMS.

The bill introduced by Mr. Fenton in the House to day provides that the proper accounting officers of the Trea. sury may examine such accounts between the parties as wore adjusted under the act of May 2, 1862, authorizing the payment of the interest due the State New York; and upon the re-examination to assume the sums expended by the State of New York, and the sums repaid by the United States. In this settlement the interest must be calculated up to the time of any payment made, and the payment first ap-plied to this; and the balance, if any, to be applied to reduce the principal. is to be calculated only on sums upon which the State has of her last or paid interest by the transfer of an interest bearing fund. In the application of the above rules, if any money is found due to the State of New York, it shall